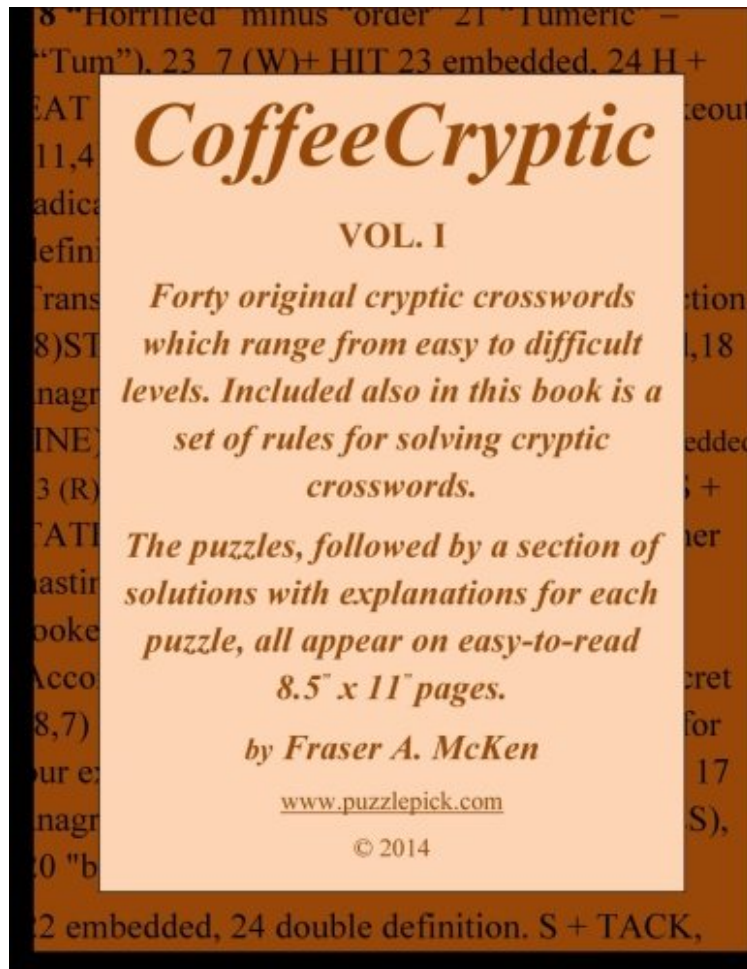


CoffeeCryptic Vol. I

Fraser A. McKen

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Fraser A. McKen : CoffeeCryptic Vol. I before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised CoffeeCryptic Vol. I:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It will do, if it's all you can find By yanogator Not at all a standard cryptic crossword. His clues are very wordy, even though in his introduction he claims that there are no unnecessary words in the clues. For example, one clue starts with "Pedro", which is not part of the straight clue or the wordplay. His straight clues aren't always at the beginning or end of the clue (sometimes in the middle), which is not the standard Cryptic way. He will frequently instruct the solver to remove some letters from a word or phrase, then the remaining letters need to be anagrammed, but there is nothing in the clue that says to mix them up. If you are to anagram all the letters in the word or phrase, then that is indicated somehow. The surface sense of his clues is often rather sketchy, so they are less clever than many cryptic crosswords. In all, though, once you get used to his quirks (I'm on puzzle #8 currently), they aren't too bad. I have to look up one to three answers at the end of a puzzle, because his non-standard

clues have baffled me. Also, only about 1/3 of the letters in an answer are checked, which makes the puzzles harder than those that have half of the letters checked. But my philosophy is that a mediocre cryptic crossword is far better than no cryptic crossword at all, so I'll probably buy Vol II.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Edward LeonettiVery intelligent puzzling .0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Extra info on types of cryptic clues and tip words allowed us to FINALLY solve these cryptic crossword puzzles!By R. W. HoltWe are new to cryptic crosswords: we tried a few over the years and were totally frustrated and gave up on them. This volume, however, came with a preliminary page that enumerated the TYPES of cryptic clues that are used in that volume plus examples of the "tip words" that tell you what type of cryptic clue you are looking at, which in turn gives you an idea how to unscramble or decipher it. For us, that information was a godsend because we had always before been confused about how to approach each clue. That said, the tip words are embedded in wittily-constructed clues that still present the initial challenge of determine what exact type of cryptic clue it is, and then successfully unscrambling or decoding the answer. So these are not easy puzzles, but they are a lot of fun--we often find ourselves laughing out loud at some of the wordplay once we find a successful solution. I would recommend that you augment that preface page on types of cryptic clues and tip words as you work your way through the puzzles (we are on 27), and if you have a partner with a fresh viewpoint, that will help avoid you getting locked into an incorrect approach or interpretation of, each cryptic clue. The puzzle answers in back also specify what type of cryptic clue produced each word of the solution, and that is also very useful for learning how to do this. So for us as neophytes, this book of cryptics was an ideal way to successfully get started.

CoffeeCryptic Vol. I is a set of cryptic crossword puzzles and their solutions with explanations. It comes with a basic set of instructions and, like Vols. II - V, contains puzzles constructed to bring enjoyment to the reader with only very rarely occurring confusion and annoyance. If you get used to doing these puzzles, you'll learn indolence in a hurry. If you're a skier, you'll be reminded of Warren Miller's description of skiing: "the conquest of the useless"...but you do it anyway. As for the title, I needed an original one for the book; the obvious association was coffee. So even if you don't quaff the nectar yourself, everyone likes the smell of coffee in the morning...don't they? Have fun. You've been warned.